

## Message Text

MRN: 1975ATHENS004044 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 EXPAND ERROR ENCOUNTERED;  
TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE  
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SECRET

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47  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
----- 019205  
O 021600Z JUN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8959

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 4044

NODIS

DEPT REPEAT TO THE SECRETARY AND TO ANKARA  
AND NICOSIA AS DESIRED

IT IS A MATTER OF WAR OR PEACE WITH TURKEY". BITSIOS SAID THAT CARAMANLIS FEELS THERE HAVE BEEN SOME "GOOD DEVELOPMENTS" RECENTLY WITH RESPECT TO GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THAT THE US HAS HELPED IN TWO WAYS: FIRST, BY "EXERTING INFLUENCE" IN ANKARA, AND SECOND, BY "CUTTING OFF" AID TO TURKEY. HOWEVER, BITSIOS QUICKLY ADDED, CARAMANLIS HAD ORDERED THAT SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS BE SENT TO GREEK AMBASSADOR IN WASHDC AND THRU HIM TO GREEK OFFICIALS IN THE US THAT THEY ADOPT AN "ABSOLUTELY NEUTRAL" POSITION ON THIS MATTER IN THEIR CONTACTS THERE. INDEED, BITSIOS ADDED, SOME "CYPRUS AND GREEK SUPPORTERS" IN THE US HAD BEEN COMPLAINING THAT THIS POLICY WAS "UNDERCUTTING" THEIR OWN EFFORTS WITH THE CONGRESS.

8. BITSIOS INDICATED THAT WAS ALL HE HAD TO TELL ME, AND I ASKED WHETHER CARAMANLIS AND DEMIREL HAD NOT TALKED MORE ABOUT BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS. BITSIOS SAID THAT "WE MUST SETTLE THESE BILATERAL MATTERS BY OURSELVES". HOWEVER, HE WENT ON, HE COULD TELL ME THAT CARAMANLIS AND DEMIREL HAD AGREED TO SET UP SOME BILATERAL "EXPERTS COMMITTEES" TO MEET ALTERNATELY IN ANKARA AND ATHENS. HE SAID THE FIRST SUCH COMMITTEE WOULD DEAL WITH "AIR SPACE PROBLEMS" AND WOULD MEET IN ANKARA BEGINNING JUNE 16TH. A SECOND COMMITTEE HAD BEEN DESIGNATED TO DEAL WITH THE FAMOUS "COMPROMIS" TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE WORLD COURT CONCERNING THE AEGEAN DISPUTE. THE PROBLEM HERE WAS THAT THE PRINCIPAL TURKISH "EXPERT"

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(THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA -- BILCAY, I BELIEVE HIS NAME IS) HAS SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT BE READY TO MEET WITH THE GREEK EXPERTS "UNTIL SEPTEMBER". CAGLAYANGIL, IN FRONT OF BITSIOS, HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE TURKISH SIDE SHOULD "SPEED UP" IT PREPARATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, BITSIOS SAID, THE TURKS WANTED TO PROCEED WITH "JOINT VENTURES" FOR EXPLORATIONS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN. BITSIOS SAID THIS WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION: "THEY WANT 50-50 PARTICIPATION IN THESE EXPLORATIONS, BUT 50PC OF WHAT? THEIR PROPERTY? OUR PROPERTY?, OR JUST WHAT?"

9. BITSIOS SAID THAT DEMIREL HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF GREECE'S FORTIFICATION OF ISLANDS IN THE AEGEAN, AND CARAMANLIS HAD EXPLAINED AT LENGTH THAT THE GREEKS HAD DONE THIS "MERELY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES" IN THE FACE OF PROVOCATIONS AND THREATS FROM ANKARA. CARAMANLIS HAD TOLD DEMIREL THAT THE ISLANDS WOULD ONCE AGAIN BE DEMILITARIZED WHEN THERE WAS A TRUE PEACE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND THE ISLAND WERE NOT BEING THREATENED. "DON'T ASK ME TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE ISLANDS NOW", CARAMANLIS HAD TOLD DEMIREL, AND DEMIREL DID NOT OBJECT. (DEMIREL'S FAILURE TO OBJECT SEEMED TO WORRY BITSIOS A LITTLE--FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.)

10. AS FOR THE "MINORITIES QUESTION", BITSIOS SAID, THE TURKS WERE ON SUCH WEAK GROUND THAT THEY DID NOT PRESS THE MATTER WHILE IN BRUSSELS.

11. IN CLOSING OUR CONVERSATION, BITSIOS SAID THAT DEMIREL AND THE TURKS HAD REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR TO CARAMANLIS AND THE GREEKS THAT CYPRUS WAS THE MAIN PROBLEM FROM THE TURKISH POINT OF VIEW. BITSIOS SAID THAT SOME OF THE DISCUSSION ABOUT CYPRUS IN BRUSSELS SEEMED TO FOCUS ON THE QUESTION OF PERCENTAGE OF TERRITORY TO BE IN EACH OF TWO ZONES ON THE ISLAND. HE SAID THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE BRITISH WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE US IN TRYING TO HELP BRING ABOUT A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND CALLAGHAN HAD ASKED BITSIOS WHAT PERCENTAGE OF TERRITORY THE GREEKS COULD ACCEPT. BITSIOS SAID HE HAD REFUSED TO NAME ANY FIGURE, FIRST, BECAUSE HE WAS NOT A CYPRIOT AND THE QUALITY OF THE TERRITORY WAS IN SOME WAYS AS IMPORTANT, OR MORE IMPORTANT, THAN THE AMOUNT, AND SECOND, BECAUSE IF

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THE TURKS ONCE HAD A FIGURE FROM THE GREEKS, THEY WOULD TAKE THAT AS AN OPENING NEGOTIATING POSITION ANF BARGAIN HARD FROM THERE.

12. AS WE WERE WALKING OUT OF HIS OFFICE, BITSIOS SAID THAT THERE WERE "RUMORS GOING AROUND IN BRUSSELS" THAT THE US HAD SUGGESTED TO CERTAIN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY

"GO SLOW" WITH RESPECT TO GREECE'S APPLICATION TO JOIN THE EEC.  
I EXPRESSED DISBELIEF AND SPECULATED THAT SOME-  
BODY WAS TRYING TO SOW BAD WILL BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ATHENS.  
BITSIOS SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY "REFUSED TO BELIEVE" THAT SUCH  
RUMORS WERE TRUE BUT TPAT HE THOUGHT I SHOULD LET THE  
SECRETARY KNOW THAT THEY WERE CIRCULATING IN BRUSSELS.  
(COMMENT: I BELIEVE SOME USG REACTION ON THIS POINT WOULD  
BE DESIRABLE, WHICH I COULD PASS TO BITSIOS THE NEXT TIME  
I SEE HIM).

13. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE AND CARAMANLIS WERE LEAVING EARLY  
WEDNESDAY MORNING (JUNE 4) FOR THEIR OFFICIAL VISIT TO  
BELGRADE AND THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE BACK IN HIS OFFICE IN  
ATHENS SOMETIME FRIDAY. WE AGREED TO GET IN TOUCH AGAIN  
FOLLOWING HIS RETURN. I THANKED HIM, ON BEHALF OF THE  
PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY, FOR THE PROMPT READ-OUT HE  
HAD GIVEN ME ON THE CARAMANLIS-DEMIREL MEETING.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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